

UPDATING & TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION OF YAKIMA BULL TROUT ACTION PLAN ACTIONS

At the November 2015 Bull Trout Working Group (BTWG) meeting, we agreed to review and update the Actions in the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan to ensure that the Actions are current and to help us focus on what we need to be doing now to effectively implement the Plan. Since then, Cassandra and I have worked together to start to review and update the BTAP Actions database. We have pulled others in on this preliminary work in an ad-hoc fashion, and are proposing a path forward that would give all BTWG members a chance to propose and review updates to the BTAP Actions. Here's a summary of what we've done to date, and the next steps we'd like to propose to the Bull trout Working Group.

WORK COMPLETED:

1. Reviewed the Existing BTAP Actions Database, and:

- a. Added new data fields for existing BTAP Actions (see **sample revised action format handout**)
 - a. **Status** (*Conceptual, proposed, in-progress or completed*)
 - b. **Status Notes** (*Text field to describe current status of action*)
 - c. **Associated USFWS RUIP Actions** (*links BTAP actions to the USFWS Recovery Plan actions they implement*)
 - d. **BOR Bull Trout Enhancement Plan Action #s** (*to show links between BTAP actions and any associated action in the Enhancement Plan*)
 - e. **2016 Update Notes** (*to describe any proposed changes for review by the group*)
- b. Drafted proposed changes to individual Action contents

We reviewed existing action descriptions and identified edits to existing actions and new actions to add to the BTAP when it seemed warranted. See the **handout on Proposed Revisions and Additions** for information on specific proposed edits. At Friday's meeting we'll be looking forward to getting feedback on both specific edits and the process for making future edits (see Future Work below)

2. Created "Next Steps" that can be identified for each action.

As we reviewed the BTAP actions it became clear that we needed an easy way to identify next steps, track their status, and add new next steps as the path forward is defined. We set the database up so that each Action can have one or more next steps, and we drafted initial next steps based on previous discussions and feedback from many of you. In the **sample revised action format handout** you can see several actions and all the information we added for their next steps. The **Next Steps List handout** shows all the draft next steps that we identified for each BTAP Action. Note that we have not yet completed filling out all the data fields for each next step. You'll see in next steps that we're counting on your input to help us do this right! **For each Next Step, the database tracks:**

- a. **Number** and **Name** for the Next step;
- b. **Text Description**;
- c. Any link to the **Bull Trout Enhancement Plan**;
- d. **BTWG Priority** (1 = BTWG sees next step as needed, feasible, time-sensitive, and not otherwise occurring; 2 = Next step needed but already underway via other processes, or not time sensitive, 3 = Good to complete when opportunity arises, and C = Complete);
- e. **Status** (*Conceptual, proposed, in-progress or completed*);
- f. **Lead** (Entities that will play a lead role implementing the next step);
- g. **Point Person** (when known, the best person to follow up with for more info);

- h. **Timeline** (how long will it take? Any key milestones?);
- i. **Budget Estimate** (to note any info possible about the expected cost of the action);
- j. **Followup** (to note what needs to be done next);
- k. **Notes** (for more information and background);

FUTURE WORK:

Here's our proposed list of next steps for reviewing and prioritizing implementation of BTAP actions. We're looking forward to getting feedback from the BTWG on these proposals!

1. Get BTWG Support for the Proposed Approach

On Friday, we'll review our work to date and the format we are proposing. We'd like the BTWG to let us know if the overall approach makes sense, and if we should make any additional changes to the format of Actions and Next Steps.

2. Set up a rotating review of Actions and Next Steps as a regular part of BTWG meetings

While we've made a start at identifying next steps, they need to be reviewed and updated with input from BTWG members and the partners who will help implement them on the ground. We propose picking one or more populations to review at each BTWG meeting and reviewing and updating their actions and next steps. If we break populations into six groups and the BTWG meets every other month we'd review and update the status of actions and next steps for each population once a year. This would require:

- a. Setting up bimonthly BTWG meetings. Either build 1-2 hours into each BTWG meeting, or set a ½ day Action Review on same day as ½ day general BTWG meeting. Either way we'd plan to pull in area leads/managers for the population-specific discussions.
- b. Committing to staff/small group work to prepare for the review of a given set of population (Cassandra to take lead coordinating, under YBFWRB contract?).
- c. Identifying appropriate population Groupings. Here's our initial proposal:
 - i. Ahtanum Population
 - ii. Rimrock Populations
 - iii. Naches and Bumping Populations
 - iv. Gold Population
 - v. Kachess Lake Populations
 - vi. Other Populations & Multi-population Actions

3. Develop a List of Next Steps that the BTWG identifies as Shared Implementation Priorities

As we agree on next steps for all populations, we'd like to work with the group to identify which of the next steps are a) high biological priorities; b) ripe for implementation, and c) need active support from the BTWG to move forward. This list would not include all next steps. Some next steps are already happening through other programs. Others are valuable, but not time-sensitive. This list would be for those next steps that the BTWG as a group agrees to pursue and commit available resources towards in a given year. The list could be updated once a year and would help keep us focused on specific achievable outcomes.

4. Make the BTAP Actions database accessible on web

If this process works, we'd set the database up so that anyone can review and query Actions and Next Steps at any time. This would make the shared wisdom of the BTWG broadly accessible.